

LINUM MODESTUM, A NEW SPECIES FROM MEXICO¹

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Plants of a well marked new species of flax appeared among a number of specimens recently borrowed from the United States National Museum.

In its fragile appearance and diminutive floral parts it resembles species of *Hesperolinon*, but there is no evidence that it is closely related to that Pacific Coast genus. *Linum modestum* clearly belongs to the portion of the genus represented by the widespread *L. schiedeanaum*, but its exact position in relation to those species must await a reevaluation of that whole complex. The slender wiry stems, rather elongate fruiting pedicels and ample inflorescence provide a distinctive habit which, together with the diminutive leaves and floral parts and the absence of stipular glands, serves to separate this species from any other in the region.

Linum modestum C. M. Rogers, sp. nov.

Herba perennis, parva, glabra; caulis tenuis; folia 3.5 mm longa, 1.3 mm lata; sepala 1.7-1.8 mm longa; petala 3-3.5 mm longa; fructus 1.5-1.6 mm longus, dimetiens 1.7 mm. Lino schiedeano affinis.

Perennial herb, 15-18 cm tall, glabrous throughout, branched at the base and in the inflorescence; stem dark purple, slender, wiry; leaves (the lower mostly gone in the specimens available) sessile, 1-nerved, the larger 3.5 mm long, 1.3 mm wide, the lower in whorls of 4, the upper alternate, the uppermost with conspicuous marginal glands, but otherwise all entire; stipular glands none; floral bracts 2 mm or less long, subcordate with marginal glands; inflorescence of few to numerous slender branches, these spreading from main stem at an angle of about 40°; pedicels slender, the lowermost up to 12 mm long in fruit; sepals 5, lanceolate to ovate, blunt to subacute, up to 1.7-1.8 mm long, the margins glandular toothed, those of the inner sepals very sparsely so; petals 5, about 3-3.5 mm long, lemon yellow, without basal pilosity; stamens 5, about 2 mm long; stamen tube very short, with a few hairs or slender lacerations near bases of the filaments; staminodia very small or none; anthers slender, pale, 0.6 mm long; fruit glabrous, broadly ovate, pointed, 1.5-1.6 mm high, about 1.7 mm in diameter, easily crushed, freely dehiscent into 10 segments; false septa incom-

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